

## INTRODUCTION

On March 19, 2007 the Flathead County Commissioners adopted the Flathead County Growth Policy. That document contained 50 goals and 262 accompanying policies that guide growth in Flathead County. Chapter 9 of the document calls for the completion of an implementation plan to guide the prioritization and implementation of policies. The following is a detailed analysis of the 262 existing policies and the regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms needed to implement that Flathead County Growth Policy. This plan is non-binding and non-regulatory and can be modified as needed based on the availability of resources and public will.

### **PART 1: Re-categorization of policies.**

An important first step in implementing the Flathead County Growth Policy is identifying the follow-up technique for each policy. The first part of this plan will re-categorize each policy as “Policy,” “Action Item” or “Neither” and list the implementation method. A definition of each is provided below. Duplicate or similar policies are cross-referenced for convenience.

#### **Definitions:**

**Policy:** A specific but non-regulatory statement that directly guides a community towards meeting an established goal regarding the promotion of public health, safety, welfare and efficiency in the process of community development. Growth-related policies are frequently directly implemented with regulatory mechanisms.

**Action Item:** A statement providing guidance for future planning efforts and requiring a follow-up action such as creation of a subsequent, more detailed plan or educational outreach effort. Implementation of an action item (i.e. creation of an additional plan) can result in detailed policies regarding a specific issue.

**Neither:** The “policy” as stated in the Flathead County Growth Policy provides no specific growth guidance or direction for future planning efforts.

**Implementation Method:** A suggested way to apply the policy or action item to promote healthy, safe and efficient growth. Some methods may be administrative, some are regulatory while others necessitate additional planning efforts with an increased level of detail beyond that which can be offered by the county-wide growth policy.

## POLICIES

Policy		Implementation Method
P.2.3	Recognize the potential for imprecisely surveyed parcels throughout Flathead County as a result of the original surveying methods used by the General Land Office. As a result, respect private property rights by allowing minimum lot sizes that enforce the spirit of density guidelines without punishing those who own slightly less than standard acreage units.	Zoning- allowance for percentage of minimum lot size to meet the requirement.
P.5.1	Match requirements of industrial land uses (such as human resources, adequate water supply, suitable road network) and areas of Flathead County where those requirements can best be met.	Neighborhood Plans  Industrial Zoning
P.5.2	Promote industrial parks and centers that take advantage of infrastructure and minimize impacts to the environment or adjacent land uses.	Neighborhood Plans  Industrial Zoning
P.5.5	Restrict industrial uses that cannot be mitigated near incompatible uses such as residential, schools, environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, areas of shallow groundwater, etc.	Neighborhood Plans  Industrial Zoning
P.6.1	Require internal, interconnected roads for commercial developments and frontage roads where appropriate.	Commercial Zoning, combined with Official Right of Way map identifying areas to be reserved for frontage road.  Subdivision Regulations.  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans
P.6.2	Restrict commercial development in unsafe, inaccessible, remote rural areas.	Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans

		Commercial Zoning
P.6.4	Require traffic impact analysis for all major commercial projects on major highways and arterials.	Subdivision Regulations
P.6.5	Conserve resources and minimize transportation demand by encouraging redevelopment and infill of existing commercial areas in the county.	Neighborhood Plans. Overall Development Plans Commercial Zoning
P.7.3	Encourage small-scale, impact-mitigated and compatible commercial developments in accessible, developing rural areas with good access and away from urban areas.	Commercial Zoning Overall Development Plans Neighborhood Plans
P.7.6	Encourage mixed use developments that share infrastructure requirements such as parking, pedestrian facilities, etc. and reduce traffic by promoting live/work situations where appropriate in Flathead County.	Commercial Zoning Possibly a new zone would need to be created to guide mixed use development. Overall Development Plans Neighborhood Plans
P.10.1	Discourage high density development within the 500-year floodplain.	Zoning Flathead County Floodplain Regulations. Overall Development Plans Neighborhood Plans
P.10.2	Discourage development within the 100-year floodplain that displaces floodwaters to neighboring properties.	Flathead County Floodplain Regulations. Subdivision Regulations
P.10.4	Restrict development directly on lands with (30%) steep slopes.	Development Predictability Map (DPM) Overall Development Plans

		Neighborhood Plans Subdivision Regulations
P.10.5	Protect wetlands and riparian areas. See Goal 38 and Policies 38.1 through 38.4.	Zoning Overlay Development Predictability Map. Subdivision Regulations
P.10.7	On lands that contain areas both suitable and unsuitable for development, encourage open space development design techniques to cluster dwellings away from hazardous and/or unsafe areas.	Overall Development Plans Neighborhood Plans Zoning with clustering incentives. Subdivision Regulations
P.12.5	Designate areas where mineral resource extraction is most appropriate and will have the least impact on other resources and land uses.	Zoning overlay- new zone to implement this policy and those identified in Mineral Resource Extraction Plan.
P.12.6	Restrict sand and gravel operations in areas that pose a threat to water quality.	Mineral Resource Extraction Plan. Zoning overlay
P.12.7	Flathead County should encourage progressive reclamation of mineral extraction operations.	Reclamation standards for zoning overlay in areas deemed appropriate for gravel extraction. Mineral Resource Extraction Plan.
P.13.3	Abide by all applicable FAA guidelines for safety around airfields.	Use zone developed for P.13.1 to implement FAA guidelines for structures, towers, etc.
P.13.4	Encourage the development of an airport-appropriate industrial/business center to	Industrial/Commercial Zoning.

	provide convenient access to Glacier International Airport and serve a growing economy.	Neighborhood Plans
P.14.1	A 1,320 foot buffer surrounding the landfill should be identified, and the buffer should be designated for only those land uses compatible with current and future landfill activities. Compatible use types such as industrial should be encouraged in this buffer.	Zoning  Neighborhood Plans
P.14.4	Visually screened, wildlife resistant, centralized collection sites or contract hauling should be encouraged in new subdivisions.	Subdivision Regulations.  Similar to P.26.2 and P.26.3
P.15.2	Provide services and facilities to support elderly and special needs residents.	Utilize zoning to designate growth areas near bases of needed elderly services
P.16.1	Provide land use-based incentives and density bonuses for the promotion and development of affordable housing opportunities for a range of household types, family sizes, incomes, and special consideration groups.	Affordable housing incentives need such things as density bonuses through zoning, fee waivers and expedited review AND follow-up administration to ensure affordability of units once built.
P.16.3	Promote the development of affordable single and multi-family housing in areas of adequate service networks.	Neighborhood Plans  Incentive zoning in appropriate areas.  Subdivision Regulations  Development Predictability Map (DPM)
P.17.1	Include provisions in the county zoning and subdivision regulations to promote affordable homeownership throughout the county	Text amendment to zoning regulations to create affordable housing incentive zoning.  Subdivision Regulations

P.17.2	Incorporate density bonuses in zoning and subdivision regulations for developments offering affordable homeownership.	Same as P.16.1, P.16.3, P.17.1. Same implementation.  Subdivision Regulations
P.17.3	Encourage mobile home parks as a form of affordable homeownership in areas with access to public sewer and water.	Similar to P.16.7.  Neighborhood Plans  Zoning to promote mobile home park development in appropriate areas.  Subdivision Regulations
P.18.2	With the exception of water based parks, subdivision park requirements should be used to create and/or fund dedicated park sites of optimal size of no less than five acres to accommodate operation and maintenance costs.	Subdivision regulations, in cooperation with Flathead County Parks Board AND Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
P.19.3	Support “pocket parks” which are owned and maintained by Home Owner groups and Associations.	Subdivision Regulations- pocket parks are different than county parks. HOAs can maintain .5 acre parks, the county cannot and needs larger parks to make maintenance efficient.
P.21.1	Provide adequate land area designated for commercial and industrial use to promote affordability, creating entrepreneurialism and/or businesses relocation to Flathead County.	Commercial/Industrial Zoning  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans
P.21.6	Support the continuation of traditional and existing industries to maintain economic diversity.	Zoning- create adequate land use designations that support existing industries.
P.22.2	Promote business centers and industrial parks in areas served by sufficient infrastructure with consideration to	Commercial and Industrial Zoning.

	proximity to population densities.	Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Similar to P.5.2.
P.22.3	Encourage the development of an airport industrial/business center to provide convenient access to Glacier International Airport and to foster a growing economy.	Almost EXACTLY the same as P.13.4.  Industrial/Commercial Zoning.
P.23.2	Limit private driveways from directly accessing arterials and collector roads to safe separation distances.	Subdivision Regulations, with collectors and arterials defined in the Transportation Plan.
P.23.3	Encourage local (neighborhood) roads that access directly onto collector roads.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.23.4	Areas in proximity to employment and retail centers should be recognized as more suitable for higher residential densities and mixed use development.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Subdivision Regulations
P.23.5	To protect public safety and allow safe travel, restrict development in areas without adequate road improvements.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Subdivision Regulations
P.23.6	Support land use patterns along transit corridors that reduce vehicle dependency and protect public safety.	Revisit zoning regs regarding excessive parking requirements, pedestrian facilities, and mixed use structures.
P.23.9	In county areas adjacent to cities, adopt urban road standards and designs consistent with the adjacent city road standards.	Similar to P.23.12  Official map to ID areas of urban densities, amend road standards to include “urban standards” and include

		<p>spatial cross reference in subdivision regulations.</p> <p>Road Design Manual</p>
P.23.12	Adopt urban transportation standards in areas developed to urban densities.	<p>Similar to P.23.9</p> <p>Official map to ID areas of urban densities, amend road standards to include “urban standards” and include spatial cross reference in subdivision regulations.</p> <p>Road Design Manual</p>
P.24.2	County road improvements needed to mitigate impacts directly attributable to the subdivision or development should be required as a necessary component of that development to preserve the carrying capacity of the roadway.	<p>Impact fees.</p> <p>Subdivision Regulations</p>
P.24.3	Require development projects to design local road systems that complement planned land uses and maintain mobility on arterial roads and highways.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.24.4	As subdivision developments are proposed, require road easement dedications for identified areas of future connectivity to serve the present and future needs of the county residents.	Official Map, after defensible prioritization in Transportation Plan, then cross reference in Subdivision Regulations
P.24.5	Restrict signalized highway intersections to a minimum of one mile spacing outside of urban areas to promote mobility and ½ mile within urban settings such as Evergreen.	This is a policy, and can be accomplished by county land-use policy directing and locating uses that will need lights. Zoning can accomplish this. However, signal placement once an area is densely developed is a decision of MDOT.
P.25.1	Encourage developments that provide functional alternative modes of travel such	Subdivision Regulations



	as bicycle and pedestrian paths.	Neighborhood Plans Overall Development Plans
P.25.4	Support the expansion of the Glacier International Airport to keep pace with the emerging demand for aviation services.	Utilize zoning to limit density around GPI.
P.26.1	Create design criteria for new development to ensure the safe, efficient, and effective collection and disposal of solid waste. Require all new subdivision site plans to be reviewed by the solid waste district and/or private hauler.	Subdivision Regulations
P.26.2	New subdivisions should be encouraged to establish centralized refuse and recycling collection sites within the development when curb-side pick-up is not feasible.	Subdivision Regulations Similar to P.14.4
P.26.3	New development should be encouraged to utilize contractor haul of refuse.	Subdivision Regulations Similar to P.14.4
P.26.7	Ensure that programs for junk vehicle collection and disposal are available and encourage stricter enforcement for existing laws.	Planning Staff can implement via enforcement assistance.
P.27.1	Contract hauling should be encouraged in all new developments to reduce traffic and disposal burden at satellite container sites (green boxes).	Subdivision Regulations
P.28.1	Encourage high density development in areas that will be served by community sewer systems that treat to municipal standards.	Development Predictability Map- both to ID “high density” as well as regulate where it goes.  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans
P.28.2	Areas not conducive to individual on-site sewage disposal systems because of flooding, ponding, seasonal high water tables, bedrock conditions, severe slope	Development Predictability Map to ID areas that are “not conducive” as well as regulate growth away from

	conditions and no access to a community sewage system should be discouraged from development.	those areas.  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Subdivision Regulations
P.28.6	Require technologically advanced wastewater treatment methods for individual septic systems where they are needed to protect water quality, such as areas close to surface water or areas deemed necessary.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.28.8	Implement scientifically defensible protection zones for aquifers susceptible to potential contamination and limit land uses to low intensity development in these zones.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Water Quality Management Plan and zoning to implement.
P.28.9	Land division resulting in residential densities greater than an average of one dwelling unit per five acres should be discouraged in areas of high groundwater of eight feet below ground surface or less which are not served by a public sewer district.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Subdivision Regulations
P.29.1	In compliance with state regulations developers should provide evidence that drinking water of sufficient quantity and quality is available in areas of proposed development.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.29.2	Promote the installation of community sewer and/or water services in areas where the quantity and/or quality of drinking water resources are threatened.	Subdivision Regulations.

P.31.4	Support multi-use of schools/parks and other community meeting places.	Zoning can be used to collocate mutually beneficial uses, such as high density residential near schools so school open space can be utilized by families during summers and off times.  Neighborhood Plans
P.32.1	Require new subdivisions to have adequate on-site water capacity and recharge for fire protection.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.32.3	Subdivisions outside of existing rural fire districts should be annexed into the nearest district if possible.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.32.4	Ensure convenient access to and within all subdivisions for the largest emergency service vehicles.	Subdivision Regulations.  Flathead County Road Standards.
P.32.5	Encourage two or more subdivision access points in areas of high and extreme fire hazard.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.32.6	Encourage subdivisions to either mitigate the impacts of delayed ambulance response times or limit density of development in identified rural areas.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Impact fees for emergency facilities.  Subdivision Regulations
P.33.3	Support crime prevention through planning and community design.	Zoning and subdivision regulations that create setbacks, lighting standards, emergency access etc. all assist crime prevention.

P.34.2	Coordinate with all utilities for co-location easements to ensure adequate easements for all current and future utilities at time of final plat.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.34.3	Promote land use patterns that permit logical, predictable and effective extension and integration of utilities.	Development Predictability Map, Neighborhood Plans and Overall Development Plans created in communication with utility providers.
P.36.1	Require development to demonstrate compliance with local, State, Tribal, and Federal water quality standards, where applicable.	Subdivision Regulations
P.36.4	Require all public waste water treatment systems to meet applicable DEQ 1 discharge standards.	The subdivision review process can be used as a checkpoint ensure compliance with existing laws.
P.36.5	Identify and encourage land development practices that do not contribute to increases in Total Maximum Daily Loads.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Also, zoning and/or subdivision regulations that encourage buffers to reduce non-point source pollution.
P.36.6	Support non-point source pollution reduction within the Flathead Basin watershed.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Also, zoning and/or subdivision regulations that encourage buffers to reduce

		non-point source pollution.
P.37.1	Encourage the development of stormwater collection, detention and retention systems.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Subdivision Regulations.
P.37.4	Encourage constructed wetlands as part of on-site drainage plans to restrict untreated storm water from entering lakes, rivers, and streams.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Subdivision Regulations.  Performance standards for zoned areas.
P.38.3	Development in floodway or floodway fringe should not create a net increase in the floodplain area.	Flathead County Floodplain Regulations.  Subdivision Regulations
P.38.5	Discourage development that displaces floodwaters within the 100-year floodplain.	Flathead County Floodplain Regulations.  Similar to P.38.3  Subdivision Regulations
P.40.2	Promote development into areas with public facilities or appropriate depth to groundwater to preserve water quality and water supply.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Zoning
P.40.3	Encourage rural residential densities at an average of one dwelling unit per five acres and/or community wastewater treatment systems on sites where the groundwater is less than eight feet unless scientific evidence shows that a greater or lesser density is appropriate.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Zoning
P.40.4	Encourage rural low-intensity land uses in	Development Predictability

	areas where the groundwater is less than eight feet unless scientific evidence shows that a higher or lower intensity of land use is appropriate.	Map Neighborhood Plans Overall Development Plans Zoning
P.41.2	Discourage unmitigated development in areas identified as critical wildlife habitat.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.42.1	Promote an active and environmentally responsible timber industry utilizing sustainable practices on private and public lands.	Flathead County Natural Resource Use Policy
P.42.2	Encourage agricultural practices and uses which protect natural resources and allow for productive use.	Agriculture Zoning in areas needing protection of natural resources.
P.42.3	Recognize and respect the important history and heritage of hunting and fishing by encouraging development that creates new or preserves existing access to public lands and waters.	Subdivision Regulations
P.50.4	Consider relevant state and federal planning documents when reviewing development proposals that will impact federal or state lands.	Neighborhood Plans Subdivision Regulations.
P.43.3	Encourage industrial and other land uses that do not degrade the Glacier National Park Class I air shed.	Canyon Neighborhood Plan Zoning
P.47.6	Discourage urban-density development that lacks urban services <i>and</i> facilities.	Subdivision Regulations. Zoning.

## ACTION ITEMS

Action Item		Implementation Method
P.1.1	Attempt to develop cooperative agreements with Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park on issues including, but not limited to, local economies, adjacent land development, road status changes, access to public lands, land use planning documents, public hearings, and noxious weed alleviation and control.	Statement of Coordination with Federal agencies.
P.1.2	Attempt to develop an intergovernmental agreement to codify jurisdiction issues with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on their land.	Statement of Coordination with Tribal government.
P.1.3	Attempt to develop cooperative agreements with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks on issues including, but not limited to, land use conversion, adjacent land development, land use planning documents, public hearings, trust land uses, public access for recreation, land acquisition and state exchanges of trust land with private and federal entities.	Statement of Coordination with DNRC and FWP.
P.1.4	Attempt to develop strategies for the County to provide meaningful advice on land use issues to the appropriate Federal, State and Tribal agencies so the County can influence decisions, which are of vital interest to County residents on the 82.5% of land in the County controlled by those agencies.	Flathead County Natural Resource Use Policy-Custom and Culture Document.
P.1.5	Communication and coordination between MT DNRC Trust Lands staff and the county will allow for local and regional planning that respects the revenue generating needs and realizes the best use, be it development or recognized conservation opportunities.	Statement of Coordination with DNRC and FWP.

P.3.1	Develop an educational brochure that explains active use and management of timber lands and the impacts adjacent landowners can expect. Promote the document by distributing it to home buyers in Flathead County.	“Living Near Agricultural and Silvicultural Land Uses” booklet.  Similar to P.4.1.
P.3.2	Evaluate land uses and trends in agricultural and timber lands, and present ideas through research and discuss tools that could be used to encourage suitable development.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Neighborhood Plans.
P.3.3	Maintain flexibility of land use options to forest and agriculture land owners by focusing on mitigating the negative impacts of development.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Overall Development Plans
P.3.4	Develop equitable and predictable impact-mitigation for converting rural timber and agriculture lands to residential real estate.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Impact Fees
P.3.5	Identify reasonable densities for remote, rural development that do not strain the provision of services or create a public health or safety hazard.	Development Predictability Map (DPM).  Neighborhood Plans.
P.3.6	Identify and maintain benefits of private forest lands, including harvesting natural resources, water quality protection, wildlife habitat and traditional recreational values and ensure that conversion of private forest lands preserves as many of these benefits as is possible.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.
P.3.7	Adopt techniques that mitigate the threat to public health and safety created by various developments near the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	Subdivision Regulations and “Wildland Urban Interface” (WUI) Zoning Overlay
P.3.8	Encourage federal and state agencies to	Flathead County Natural



	actively manage timber lands to reduce fire hazard and increase positive local economic impacts of timber harvesting.	Resource Use Policy- Custom and Culture Document.
P.4.1	Develop an educational brochure that explains agriculture and agricultural practices and the impacts adjacent landowners can expect. Promote the document by distributing it to home buyers in Flathead County.	“Living Near Agricultural and Silvicultural Land Uses” booklet.  Similar to P.3.1.
P.4.2	Identify lands most suited to agriculture (appropriate soils, access to water, shape and size of parcels etc.).	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans
P.4.3	Identify a desirable gross density for rural residential development that retains land values, preserves the agricultural character of the community and allows for efficient provision of government services (law enforcement, fire protection, transportation, etc.)	Development Predictability Map (DPM).  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans
P.4.4	Identify and encourage subdivision layouts that retain value of land without negatively impacting the rural character and agricultural activities.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Subdivision Regulations
P.4.5	Develop equitable and predictable impact-mitigation for converting agricultural lands to residential uses.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans  Impact fees for county facilities impacted by rural

		development.  Subdivision Regulations
P.4.6	Develop proposals for community-based incentives for farmers and forest landowners to maintain farms/forest in order to share the cost of preserving the custom, culture, and character of agriculture in Flathead County	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Neighborhood Plans.  Subdivision Regulations
P.4.7	Create an agricultural/private timber lands board, with significant representation from the ag/timber community and the Flathead County Planning Board, to propose plans for conserving working farms and ranches, clean water and key wildlife habitat.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.
P.4.8	If allowable, develop and adopt a Right to Farm/Harvest Ordinance and other policies as needed to support the viability of the agriculture/forestry industry in Flathead County.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  No county ordinances dealing with this issue are authorized under statute.
P.5.3	Identify trends in industrial land uses and determine the amount of land needed in the future at a variety of growth rates. Utilize these figures when determining land use regulations.	Growth Policy Amendment-Identify trends in text of document and modify P.5.3 into a policy based on those trends. Implement with Industrial Zoning.  Neighborhood Plans.
P.5.4	Identify “objectionable impacts” of industrial uses and determine desirable distance thresholds and buffers from other land uses.	Growth Policy Amendment-Identify requested thresholds and modify P.5.4 into a policy. Implement with Industrial Zoning.  Neighborhood Plans.

P.6.3	Provide ample commercial land designation to promote affordability.	Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans  Commercial Zoning
P.7.1	Determine commercial development features that support the seven elements of the Flathead County vision detailed in Chapter 1: The Character of Flathead County.	Growth Policy Amendment  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans
P.7.2	Develop regulations that promote P.7.1 and mitigate the negative impacts of commercial development.	Growth Policy Amendment and implement with Commercial Zoning
P.7.4	Identify existing areas that are suitable for impact-mitigated commercial uses.	Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans  Zoning
P.7.5	Encourage commercial development that is visually and functionally desirable.	Growth Policy Amendment to define “visually and functionally desirable” then Commercial Zoning combined with Design Standards.  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans  Subdivision Regulations
P.8.2	Identify required criteria for various densities that support the seven elements of the public’s vision outlined in Chapter 1.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans  Zoning
P.8.3	Create maps that spatially represent the criteria identified in P.8.2.	Development Predictability Map

		Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans
P.8.4	Set clear standards for amending development guidelines.	Ensure that each regulatory implementation has amendment criteria.
P.9.1	Identify open spaces that serve a critical role in public and environmental health, safety and general welfare.	Growth Policy Amendment to include requested info, instead of creating a new plan.  Neighborhood Plans.  Overall Development Plans
P.9.2	Create regulatory incentives for the preservation and protection of open spaces during the development process.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Zoning Regulations  Subdivision Regulations
P.9.3	Consider and develop specifications for various buffers to protect open spaces.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.  Subdivision Regulations  Zoning Regulations  Floodplain Regulations  Lakeshore Regulations.
P.10.3	Encourage impact-mitigated development in areas of shallow groundwater. Use test holes or bore holes and best available data to determine areas of shallow groundwater.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Growth Policy Amendment to define “impact-mitigated development” and “areas of

		shallow groundwater.” Implement with subdivision regulations.
P.10.6	Develop reasonable and fair criteria for identifying and preserving structures, artifacts and areas with cultural and historical significance to the residents of Flathead County. Such criteria shall not be used to prohibit development, but rather to encourage development that incorporates and protects these areas for future generations.	Subdivision Regulations  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans
P.11.1	Identify critical gateway areas that provide lasting impressions of Flathead County to both residents and visitors.	Growth Policy Amendment to ID requested areas.  Neighborhood Plans
P.11.2	Identify impacts of development that threaten gateway areas and develop land use guidelines that mitigate these impacts without prohibiting development.	Growth Policy Amendment to ID requested impacts and implement with zoning in areas ID'd in P.11.1.
P.11.3	Determine road and recreational waterway corridors with scenic resources that are valued by both residents and visitors.	Growth Policy Amendment to ID requested areas.  Neighborhood Plans
P.11.4	Create incentives for developments that consider the scenic settings, incorporate design and construction standards that harmonize and complement the local views, and where possible, provide incentives for excellent architectural design.	Zoning combined with PUD incentives.  Overall Development Plans
P.11.5	Develop guidelines to ensure that lighting should not destroy the reasonable enjoyment by all residents of the night skies.	Add lighting performance standards to existing zoning regs, and zone unzoned areas.
P.12.2	Identify areas of significant mineral resource deposits and develop accurate maps reflecting these areas.	Mineral Resource Extraction Plan  Neighborhood Plans

P.12.3	Create land use policies that segregate existing and future gravel extraction operations from incompatible land uses.	Mineral Resource Extraction Plan or Neighborhood Plan, then implement with zoning.
P.12.4	Develop policies to mitigate the impacts of mineral resource extraction. These may include road maintenance, dust abatement or vegetative buffers.	Mineral Resource Extraction Plan or Neighborhood Plan, then implement with zoning.
P.13.1	Utilize future expansion plans of Glacier International Airport to create a land use designation that protects both the economic significance of the airport and the safety of neighbors and passengers.	Create the land use designation (zone) and implement it around the airport.
P.13.2	Provide predictability to landowners neighboring the airport by designating growth areas.	Use zone developed for P.13.1 to designate growth areas.
P.13.5	Coordinate and cooperate with GPI on the Glacier Park International Airport Master Plan.	Communicate with GPI on land use designation development (see P.13.1).
P.14.2	Identify all suitable solid waste disposal options available to the County and implement a strategy to assure capacity is secured to meet future demands.	Solid Waste District Strategic Plan
P.14.3	Satellite refuse collection sites (green boxes) and licensed junk vehicle collection sites should be aesthetically screened to reduce the spread of litter and mitigate objectionable views.	Solid Waste District Strategic Plan  Compliance with state law-junk vehicle program.
P.16.2	Create an affordable housing plan for the county which includes evaluating the need for a county housing committee and establishing coordination between the county and the cities of Columbia Falls, Kalispell, and Whitefish.	Affordable Housing Plan
P.16.6	Consider the advisability of adopting a building inspection procedure for new residential construction.	Building Department Feasibility Analysis

P.16.7	Identify areas suitable for quality mobile home park development.	Growth Policy text amendment to determine desirable locations for mobile homes (access, proximity to employment, commercial services, etc.) then zoning to promote mobile home park development in appropriate areas.
P.17.4	Develop zoning and design standards for Class A manufactured housing.	Update existing zoning.
P.17.5	Encourage the establishment of public/private partnerships as a method to offer financing to first time homebuyers.	Affordable Housing Plan
P.17.6	Establish affordable housing standards for developing infrastructure, that would reduce the cost of affordable lots, while maintaining the character of the projects.	Affordable Housing Plan
P.17.7	Develop criteria for developers to meet to qualify for affordable housing incentives.	Affordable Housing Plan
P.18.1	Acquisition of park and leisure facility sites should occur now to serve the future needs of the county, particularly water-based parks which provide public access to lakes, rivers and streams.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
P.18.3	Existing parks and recreational facilities should be operated and maintained in a quality condition for use by the general public.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan to increase maintenance and acquisition efficiency.
P.18.4	Develop strategies to fund, operate, and maintain new parks and recreational facilities.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
P.18.5	Prepare a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the expansion of the park system to meet the needs and expectations of the growing	Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

	public. Utilize the work completed by the LRPTF of identifying bike path routes and the work of the three cities and rails to trails.	
P.18.6	Flathead County should preserve and increase recreational access to public lands and waterways by procuring necessary land, easements, or rights of way.	<p>Parks and Recreation Master Plan.</p> <p>Neighborhood Plans</p> <p>Overall Development Plans</p> <p>Official Mapping</p>
P.18.7	Create a Flathead County Bicycle Transportation Advisory Committee to determine and prioritize areas for bike path easement acquisition and construction, prioritize use of funds, guide grant applications, identify roads that should have bicycle lanes, determine maintenance funding mechanisms, and set county-wide bicycle path/lane construction standards.	<p>In general, bicycles are used in Flathead County for two purposes; recreation and transportation.</p> <p>Transportation Plan</p> <p>Parks and Recreation Master Plan.</p>
P.19.1	Encourage parks, planning, maintenance and development coordination with other local jurisdictions, state, and federal agencies.	<p>Parks and Recreation Master Plan. (communication during development)</p> <p>Neighborhood Plans</p> <p>Overall Development Plans</p> <p>Official Mapping</p>
P.19.2	Participate with developing partnerships, community civic groups and organizations, private sector building and development industry, and others interested in parks and recreation activities.	Broad community participation in Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
P.19.4	Riparian buffers should be recognized for their recreational value and their ability to protect the quality of water along major streams and rivers in the County to enhance recreational opportunities, protect the quality of water (reduce erosion; surface	Growth Policy amendment to identify riparian corridors critical to water quality, wildlife habitat and migration, and recreation access.



	runoff containing pesticides, fertilizers, etc.; stream bank depredation/defoliation; etc.) and their ability to protect the natural aesthetics of waterways.	Subdivision Regulations
P.19.5	Whenever possible, County parks should be developed in conjunction with public or private schools.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
P.19.6	Develop standards, procedures, and requirements for the preparation, review, and adoption of neighborhood and subdivision park plans.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan.  Once developed, include in Subdivision Regulations.
P.20.1	Provide new lands and indoor/outdoor recreation and park facilities outlined in the comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan to keep pace with expanding population and demand.	Parks and Recreation Master Plan.  Implement with mechanisms for purchase of park lands and construction of facilities, once priorities are established in plan.
P.21.2	Develop methods to enhance a sustainable agricultural and timber industry through community-based incentives.	Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.
P.21.3	Foster small business development as a method to provide employment and locally produced goods and services to meet the needs and demands of local communities and to provide region specific export goods.	Economic Development Authority
P.21.3	Promote education and work force development programs to better prepare current and future generations for high quality job opportunities and to provide employers with quality and dependable workers.	Economic Development Authority
P.21.4	Utilize economic development authorities to attract relocation or startup of businesses that offer competitive wages and job	Flathead County Economic Development Authority

	opportunities for those with a range of educational backgrounds.	
P.22.1	Identify infrastructure needs of the various business types and identify areas of the County which can best suit those needs.	Growth Policy amendment to ID needs and areas, then zoning to put those uses where the infrastructure exists to accommodate them.
P.22.4	Consider the infrastructure needs of local businesses when prioritizing development of new county facilities.	Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
P.23.7	Develop a transportation grid system that minimizes environmental impacts to developed and natural areas.	Transportation Plan Official Map
P.23.8	Promote coordinated and cooperative transportation planning with Kalispell, Columbia Falls, Whitefish and Montana Departments of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.	Transportation Plan
P.23.10	Restrict direct access from private properties onto the Montana State highways and require frontage roads where needed and internal vehicle circulation roads for all development outside of urban areas.	Transportation Plan Official Map Neighborhood Plans Subdivision Regulations
P.23.11	Plan for and pursue opportunities for the development of additional east-west transportation corridors, especially between U.S. Highways 2, 93 and MT Highway 206.	Similar to P.24.4 Transportation Plan Official Map
P.24.1	Ensure that identified functional class, road easement width, and condition of existing transportation facilities are adequate	Transportation Plan Neighborhood Plans Overall Development Plans
P.24.6	Attempt to develop cooperative agreements	Transportation Plan

	with the Montana Department of Transportation and the United States Federal Highway Administration to promote coordination of land use and transportation planning and the efficient use of transportation facilities.	followed by zoning reviewed by MDOT to direct various land uses to areas most suited to accommodate traffic and safety concerns.
P.24.7	Develop a comprehensive countywide transportation plan to categorize current needs and to identify future needs.	Transportation Plan
P.24.8	Develop uniform system of prioritization for road improvements and maintenance.	Transportation Plan
P.24.9	As funding and resources allow, develop a Dust Abatement Program to mitigate dust impact from traffic on county roads.	Transportation Plan Impact Fees for road facilities Subdivision Regulations
P.25.2	Identify and prioritize areas for a predictable regional and interconnected bicycle path network and require pedestrian/bicycle easements on both sides of identified county roads. Encourage developments that aid and/or connect to this network.	Parks and Recreation Plan, then implement with Official Map.  Tied to Subdivision Regulations
P.25.5	Determine and prioritize areas for bike path easement acquisition and construction, prioritize use of funds, guide grant applications, identify roads that should have bicycle lanes, determine maintenance funding mechanisms, and set county-wide bicycle path/lane construction standards.	Same as P.25.2  Parks and Recreation Plan, then implement with Official Map.  Tied to Subdivision Regulations
P.26.4	Solid waste containers and disposal methods in rural areas should require measures such as animal-proofing and public education so as to discourage the attraction of wildlife.	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.
P.26.5	Promote and encourage increased opportunities for community recycling	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic

	through recycling pilot programs and the initiation of public-private partnerships.	Plan.  Same as P.27.3
P.26.6	Encourage safe disposal of household hazardous wastes through education and collection programs.	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.
P.26.8	Impacts to the local community of green box collection sites should be mitigated at the time of construction, improvement, and expansion of the facility. This should include visual screening, safety improvements and dust mitigation.	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.
P.27.2	Flathead County Solid Waste District should perform a needs analysis to assess current and future levels of service to provide cost effective and efficient solid waste collection services within the County.	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.
P.27.3	Encourage county-wide recycling program(s) to reduce the rate at which landfill approaches maximum capacity.	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.  Same as P.26.5
P.27.4	New funding mechanisms for continued solid waste disposal activities as well as future expansion should be explored.	Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.
P.28.3	Prepare a comprehensive water quality management plan for the county.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan
P.28.4	Initiate the development of a regional wastewater treatment plan.	Wastewater Management Plan
P.28.5	Work to engage water and sewer districts in the county development processes.	Wastewater Management Plan  Also continue agency referrals.
P.28.7	Encourage wastewater treatment facilities and technologies adequate to meet or	Wastewater Management Plan- But possibly “Neither”

	exceed water quality standards.	due to water quality standards being set by other agencies independent of the land use planning process.
P.29.3	Identify wellhead protection areas for public wells and land uses in those areas should be limited as to limit the risk of drinking water contamination.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Zoning
P.29.4	Land use and subdivision activities should not threaten drinking water sources.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Zoning
P.30.1	Areas of higher susceptibility to impacts from septic systems due to soils, depth to groundwater, proximity to sensitive surface waters, topography, and/or density of development should be identified.	Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Water Quality Management Plan and zoning to implement.
P.30.2	Develop the feasibility of a countywide wastewater management plan for the maintenance and management of septic systems.	Wastewater Management Plan
P.30.3	Develop an educational brochure that explains management of septic systems and the impacts associated with inadequate management of individual systems. Promote the document by distributing it to home owners and buyers in Flathead County.	Distribute pamphlet in FCPZ office available from MT DEQ.
P.31.3	Determine common characteristics of developments most likely to add school children to the local schools and identify incentives for projects to mitigate impacts.	Subdivision Regulations- bonus densities for subdivisions with identified characteristics that donate land to schools. Doesn't seem to violate 76-3-608 M.C.A.  Possibly impact fees for school facilities, although it

		could be argued that impact fees are not “incentives” per se.
P.32.7	Identify target level of service (LOS) for emergency 911 call processing and work to achieve and maintain that target as growth occurs. This should include security, survivability and redundancy of facilities and services.	Emergency Service Plan(s) created in conjunction with service providers.
P.33.1	Create a seamless emergency response system through a regional 911 emergency response provider system.	Emergency Service Plan(s) created in conjunction with service providers.
P.33.2	Attempt to increase the current ratio of patrol officers per 1,000 residents to meet the growing number of calls for assistance.	Emergency Service Plan(s) created in conjunction with service providers.
P.33.4	Develop a comprehensive public response plan for sheriffs and fire districts to support growth and development in the county.	Emergency Service Plan(s) created in conjunction with service providers.
P.34.1	Add appropriate agencies to the referrals during the subdivision review process.	Subdivision Regulations.
P.34.4	Establish standardized regulations for wireless and fiber optics communications infrastructure that ensure the following are maintained: public health, safety, general welfare, convenience, natural resources, and the visual environment/appearances.	Cell tower zoning and transportation planning for expansion of rights of way to accommodate fiber optic cables.
P.35.1	Establish public/private partnerships to develop a Flathead basin watershed management plan using scientific data to determine critical areas and evaluate the impacts of future development on water quantity and quality.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan
P.35.2	Provide improved educational information to landowners on the importance of buffers and restoration techniques to reduce nutrient loading to water resources.	Distribution of brochures available from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

P.36.2	Review and revise the Lakeshore Protection regulations to expand the lakeshore protection zone to reduce potential harm caused by fertilizers and pesticides entering lakes, streams and rivers.	75-7-202 M.C.A. might preclude extension of Lakeshore Protection Zone-implementation might require legislative work.
P.36.3	Investigate the feasibility of a regional wastewater treatment system. Ensure that the regional wastewater treatment plan protects the Flathead Watershed.	Wastewater Management Plan
P.36.7	Identify critical aquifer recharge areas in Flathead County and land uses in these areas that protect water quantity and quality.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Possible Growth Policy Amendment to include a map of these areas.
P.37.2	Develop and provide educational information to individuals, organizations, and neighborhood associations regarding storm water management and the importance of proper storm water management practices.	These pamphlets are already available from the MDEQ.
P.37.3	Develop best management practices (BMPs) and setback requirements for development projects that impact water bodies. This may include vegetative buffer strips along stream sides and riverbanks, and the use of sedimentation barriers.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Subdivision Regulations
P.38.1	Adopt FEMA maps and existing floodplain studies as they become available.	Flathead County Floodplain Regulations.
P.38.2	Review and revise floodplain regulations. This could include appropriate setback requirements from floodplains.	Flathead County Floodplain Regulations.  Subdivision Regulations
P.38.4	Consider density guidelines in the floodplain regulations.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans

		Overall Development Plans Subdivision Regulations
P.39.1	Use scientific studies to identify locations of riparian areas and delineated wetlands.	Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan
P.39.3	Develop regulations that restrict development in jurisdictional wetlands and riparian areas.	When combined with 39.1, could be implemented (once identified) with overlay zones, zoning, or subdivision regulations.
P.39.4	Develop best management practices (BMP's) and setback requirements for development to mitigate adverse impacts to sensitive wetland and riparian areas.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Subdivision Regulations  Similar 37.3
P.40.1	Use scientific studies to identify locations over shallow aquifers.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Development Predictability Map  Neighborhood Plans  Overall Development Plans  Possible Growth Policy Amendment to include map of these areas.
P.41.1	Promote the distribution to home owners and home buyers of an educational brochure that explains Living with Wildlife information and the impacts landowners	Distribute brochures in the FCPZ office available from Montana FWP.



	can expect. Promote the document by distributing it to home buyers and home owners in Flathead County.	
P.41.3	Maintain a greenbelt along streams and rivers to protect the quality of water, protect critical wildlife corridors, and maintain the natural aesthetics of waterways.	Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan  Subdivision regulations  Possibly Growth Policy Amendment to identify green belt and create a zoning overlay.
P.43.1	Implement the existing Flathead County Air Pollution Plan, dated December 16, 1996, into development standards. Any new plans would be considered for inclusion through a public process.	Subdivision Regulations  Zoning performance standards.
P.43.2	Annually prioritize and perform road-surfacing and dust abatement projects to reduce airborne dust generated from gravel-surfaced roads.	Transportation Plan  Capital Improvements Plan
P.44.1	Develop expedited and simplified subdivision and development review processes for lands within an approved growth-policy-consistent neighborhood plan.	Neighborhood Plans AND Zoning, subject to 76-3-608(6) M.C.A.  Tied to Subdivision Regulations
P.44.2	Develop a guide to assist landowners and residents who desire neighborhood plans to develop a plan that implements the character of the neighborhood and fulfills the needs of landowners and residents.	Planning Office develops guide for distribution.
P.44.3	Evaluate the effectiveness of neighborhood plans at a minimum of once every 5 years and revise plans accordingly.	Do as it says.
P.44.4	A clear majority of both landowners and acreage represented within the established boundary described in Step 1 of the neighborhood planning process should be	Neighborhood Plans

	in support of a proposed neighborhood plan. Steps 1 through 6 of the neighborhood planning process outlined in Chapter 10 establish a mechanism by which if a clear majority of the landowners do not support a neighborhood plan, the Planning Board can recommend denial of the plan to the commissioners due to lack of support. This check and balance mechanism is further protected by Policy 44.5 (P.44.5) allowing landowners recourse if a neighborhood plan is adopted by the Commissioners but deemed undesirable by 40% of the landowners or 50% of the acreage included.	
P.44.5	If 40% of landowners within the neighborhood plan area whose names appear on the last completed assessment role or if landowners representing 50% of acreage included, sign a protest petition to the neighborhood plan within 90 days after adoption by the county commissioners, the plan shall become null and void.	Neighborhood Plans
P.44.6	An advisory committee, which represents diverse elements of the plan area, approved by the county commission comprised of landowners and residents living in the plan area should be established for each approved neighborhood plan.	Neighborhood Plans
P.45.1	Previously existing neighborhood plans are to remain in effect until revised by the Flathead County Board of Commissioners, are hereby incorporated into the Growth Policy as addenda to it and are deemed consistent with the existing Growth Policy.	Neighborhood Plans
P.45.2	Existing neighborhood plans will be reviewed by the Flathead County Planning Board and Zoning Office to determine whether Flathead County and the landowners in the neighborhood plan area should update the neighborhood plan. This review may be part of the statutorily	Neighborhood Plans

	required 5 year review or may occur sooner.	
P.45.3	If the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office determines that a neighborhood plan should be updated, then the planning staff may, at the request of the County Commissioners or majority of the Planning Board initiate an amendment to the neighborhood plan.	Neighborhood Plans
P.45.4	Simplified subdivision and development review processes, once developed by Flathead County for neighborhood plan areas, will apply to the areas included in the existing neighborhood plans.	Neighborhood Plans AND Zoning, subject to 76-3-608(6) M.C.A.  Subdivision Regulations  Same as P.44.1
P.46.1	Maintain and continue coordination and review of the provisions of the existing interlocal agreement between Flathead County and the City of Columbia Falls.	Regular updates of interlocal agreement.
P.46.2	Maintain communication on planning issues adjacent to the interlocal agreement boundary.	Agency referral process
P.46.3	Annually review the provisions of the interlocal agreement for adequacy, accuracy and relevancy and revise as necessary.	Regular updates of interlocal agreement.  Same as P.46.1
P.46.4	Encourage a statement of coordination on planning issues between the County and Columbia Falls	Prepare a statement.  Similar to P.46.1 and P.46.3- an interlocal agreement is very similar to a statement of coordination.
P.47.1	Jointly identify areas around Kalispell appropriate for high density, urban development.	Interlocal Agreement or Zoning amendments developed with Kalispell.
P.47.2	Share plans for guiding growth away from	Zoning amendments

	hazardous and/or unhealthy lands.	developed with Kalispell.
P.47.3	Identify areas most appropriate to be served by Kalispell or county sewer and water services. Share plans for extension of sewer and water facilities to increase the predictability of the community development process.	Kalispell/County Neighborhood Plan.
P.47.4	Jointly identify areas around Kalispell appropriate to preserve through open-space development design incentives or acquisition of land for natural and/or recreation areas.	Kalispell/County Neighborhood Plan.
P.47.5	Jointly identify areas around Kalispell likely to be annexed and appropriate for development to urban density, service and facility standards.	Kalispell/County Neighborhood Plan.
P.47.7	Encourage a statement of coordination on planning issues between the County and Kalispell.	Prepare a statement.
P.48.1	Maintain and continue coordination and review of the provisions of the existing interlocal agreement between Flathead County and the City of Whitefish.	Regular updates of interlocal agreement.
P.48.2	Maintain communication on planning issues adjacent to the interlocal agreement boundary.	Agency referral process
P.48.3	Annually review the provisions of the interlocal agreement for adequacy, accuracy and relevancy and revise as necessary.	Regular updates of interlocal agreement.  Same as P.48.1
P.48.5	Encourage a statement of coordination on planning issues between the County and Whitefish.	Prepare a statement.  Similar to P.48.1 and P.48.3- an interlocal agreement is very similar to a statement of coordination.
P.49.1	Develop an intergovernmental agreement	Intergovernmental

	clarifying and codifying all jurisdiction, communication and coordination issues on lands within both the Flathead Indian Reservation and Flathead County as well as tribally-owned lands outside the Flathead Indian Reservation.	Agreement
P.49.2	Communicate on development occurring near and/or on lands designated as culturally significant to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.	Subdivision Regulations-require “cultural clearance” from the tribe.
P.49.3	Provide in the interlocal agreement for cultural clearance of development sites in Flathead County where defined Indian artifacts are uncovered during development.	Subdivision Regulations-require “cultural clearance” from the tribe.  Similar to P.49.2
P.50.1	Actively participate in the process of planning for federal and state lands. This includes regular communication on issues of importance to Flathead County residents and commentary on effectiveness of existing plans.	All plans once adopted by Flathead County could be considered “active participation” that communicate to the federal and state land managers the issues of importance to residents of Flathead County.
P.50.2	Regularly review and update the accuracy and relevance of the “Flathead County Natural Resource Use Policy, Custom and Culture Document.”	“Flathead County Natural Resource Use Policy, Custom and Culture Document.”
P.50.3	Pursue a “statement of coordination” with state and federal land management agencies clarifying and codifying relevant jurisdictional issues including, but not limited to, fire response, fuel reduction, emergency services, road usage and access, water resources, timber, agriculture, noxious weeds and recreation access.	Statement of Coordination

**NEITHER**

Neither		Reason
P.2.1	Flathead County should create land use regulations that are directly linked to the vision outlined in the Growth Policy.	Land use regulations are required under MT law to be linked to the growth policy. Implementation method would be “compliance with state law.”
P.2.2	Regulatory and fiscal implementation of the Growth Policy should protect the public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or general welfare in the process of community development (76-1-106, M.C.A.).	The Planning Board implements the Growth Policy and functions according to law cited. Implementation method would be “compliance with state law.”
P.8.1	Create reasonable, flexible and predictable development guidelines based on accurate, fair and reasonable criteria.	This is a general statement, more of a goal than a policy.
P.12.1	Identify areas of known sand and gravel resources.	Same as P.12.2., but less specific.
P.12.8	Require compliance with existing local, state and federal laws regarding oil, gas, and mineral exploration or production.	Flathead County can only administer those laws that are within our statutory jurisdiction.
P.14.5	Consider existing adjacent or nearby private or public solid waste collection facilities during the development process.	There is only one solid waste collection facility in Flathead, and all areas of the county are served by private contract hauling per PSC requirements. Also, the policy does not give indication of what to consider, such as distance, capacity, cost, etc. of these facilities. No guidance is given by this policy.
P.15.1	Encourage housing, employment, education and recreation to attract, support and maintain young families.	This policy is too broad to be effectively implemented. Affordable housing, entry

		level professional jobs, higher education opportunities and youth-oriented recreation programs are all addressed in other more specific policies in the document.
P.15.3	Promote and respect the culture, heritage and history of Flathead County residents.	Similar to P.8.1, this is a general goal statement and does not provide specific guidance for growth issues in Flathead County. The policy is certainly an important statement, but is not implementable with specific actions.
P.16.4	Consider the locational needs of various types of housing with regard to proximity of employment, and access to transportation and public services.	This policy does not offer guidance. Its intent would be better understood if combined with P.16.3 to offer guidance for locating prime sites to encourage affordable housing.
P.16.5	Promote the rehabilitation of historic and/or architecturally significant structures for the purpose of conversion to housing.	Implementing this policy is not feasible in Flathead County within the foreseeable future. A fine statement and worthy policy, but actually implementing it would require oversight and “incentivizing” of the building process.
P.20.2	Maintain level of recreation services by providing innovative programs geared towards a diverse demographic of county residents (children, adults, seniors, etc.).	This is more accurately a goal statement, to be included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, followed by policies detailing how it would be accomplished.
P.21.5	Preserve the natural amenities that	This is more of a goal

	characterize the county in order to attract industries and businesses that maintain the high quality of life that attracts visitors and new residents, and sustains the tourism sector of the economy.	statement. This is a very important goal, but is too broad to be implementable.
P.23.1	Manage land use and the transportation system as a unified and coordinated system to ensure that one does not outpace the other.	This is more of a goal. The policies would be how this is to be accomplished.
P.23.9	In county areas adjacent to cities, adopt urban road standards and designs consistent with the adjacent city road standards.	Not realistic to implement. If a property is adjacent to a city and the density is such that cgss is appropriate, then they will likely annex to get sewer and water. Historically, there has been no county support for requiring curb, gutter, sidewalks and streetlights in projects near cities due to cost to developer.
P.25.3	Support the partnership between Eagle Transit, the State of Montana and the National Park Service to develop a joint transit system that services both Glacier National Park and the residents of Flathead County.	Not implementable in a Land Use plan.
P.31.1	Consider a school district's ability to accommodate new students as part of the proposed subdivision review process.	Possibly illegal- see 76-3-608 M.C.A. Consider removing.
P.31.2	Consider the needs for future school building sites as development occurs.	Future sites for schools should be considered WELL in advance of development, so as to fairly and predictably secure locations during the development process. Considering ANY future needs can't be done "as development occurs."
P.32.2	Support mutual aid agreements between	A land use plan cannot



	rural and municipal fire districts.	implement mutual aid agreements, nor is there a mechanism to “support mutual aid agreements.”
P.39.2	Encourage educational programs on voluntary conservation strategies for private property owners.	Difficult to implement through a regulatory land use process- more of a private task for non-profits. Possibly implemented by distributing brochures in the Planning Office.
P.40.5	Encourage through incentives the upgrading of failing and polluting septic systems.	Failing and polluting systems are the jurisdiction of MDEQ and there is very little land use regulations or plans can do to “incentivize” replacement of these systems.
P.40.6	Encourage educational programs for neighborhood associations and other organizations on septic system impacts to groundwater and surface water quality.	FCPZ is unlikely to provide resources to encourage programs that are the primary jurisdiction of another county office/state agency.  Possible partial implementation by distributing brochures in the Planning Office.  Similar to P.30.3
P.48.4	Protect and preserve the many unique opportunities present in the natural and human environment.	Too vague to be implemented effectively.

## PART 2: Implementation Methods

In Part 1 of this document, numerous methods for implementing policies and action items are listed. Chapter 9 of the Flathead County Growth Policy entitled “Implementation Strategy” lists many of these methods. Others are specifically authorized under Montana law and need not be specifically mentioned in the Growth Policy. Still others are proposed in Part 1 for the first time and will be appended to the Growth Policy with the adoption of this document.

For clarity and better understanding of the implementation scope of work, all implementation methods are listed below. Methods are divided into Non-Regulatory and Regulatory lists and further identified as either “Existing in Growth Policy” or “Proposed as New Implementation Method.”

<b>Non-Regulatory Implementation Method</b>	<b>Authorization Status</b>
Neighborhood Plans <sup>*</sup>	Existing In Growth Policy
Overall Development Plans <sup>*</sup>	Proposed as New Implementation Method (See Part 3)
Mineral Resource Extraction Plan	Existing In Growth Policy
Growth Policy Text Amendments	Existing In Growth Policy
Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	Existing In Growth Policy
Transportation Plan	Existing In Growth Policy
Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan	Existing In Growth Policy
Flathead County Natural Resource Use Policy	Existing In Growth Policy
Distribution of educational materials	Existing In Growth Policy
Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.	Proposed as New Implementation Method (See Part 3)
Affordable Housing Plan	Existing In Growth Policy
Building Department Feasibility Analysis	Proposed as New

<sup>\*</sup> Although Neighborhood Plans and Overall Development Plans can be used to implement much of the Growth Policy, it is important to note that these plans individually cover limited areas of Flathead County. Some implementation requires county-wide planning, such as the Parks and Recreation Master Plan or the Wastewater Management Plan.

	Implementation Method (See Part 3)
Economic Development Authority	Existing In Growth Policy
Capital Improvements Plan	Existing In Growth Policy
Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.	Proposed as New Implementation Method (See Part 3)
Wastewater Management Plan	Existing In Growth Policy
Emergency Service Plan(s)	Existing In Growth Policy

**Regulatory Implementation Method****Existing or Proposed Authorization**

Official Map	Existing In Growth Policy
Lakeshore Regulations.	Existing in M.C.A.
Statements of Coordination/Interlocal Agreements	Existing In Growth Policy
Road Design Manual	Proposed as New Implementation Method (See Part 3)
Impact Fees	Existing In Growth Policy
Floodplain Regulations	Existing in M.C.A.
Development Predictability Map	Existing In Growth Policy
Zoning <sup>†</sup>	Existing In Growth Policy
Subdivision Regulations	Existing In Growth Policy

<sup>†</sup> Zoning can be used as a tool to implement land use policies. Some actual “policies” (see definition in Part 1 of this document) already in the Growth Policy can be directly implemented with zoning. Some “action items” (see definition in Part 1 of this document) are implemented with additional plans that may contain new detailed policies. Those new policies can then be implemented with zoning.

### **PART 3: New Implementation Methods Described**

Part 2 of this document introduced 5 implementation methods not currently listed in Chapter 9 of the Flathead County Growth Policy. The new implementation methods are described below and hereby appended to the Flathead County Growth Policy.

#### **Road Design Manual**

On July 2, 2007 the Flathead County Commissioners passed Resolution #2074 adopting minimum standards for design and construction of public and private roads in Flathead County. Regulatory standards were adopted to provide clear, predictable road design and construction guidance to both county agencies and private sector interests and to improve county-wide quality, consistency and safety of roads. The standards shall be revised and updated as needed.

#### **Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.**

The conversion of rural lands historically used for timber or agriculture uses to residential development creates challenges for efficient access to public facilities and delivery of public services. Health and safety challenges also arise from the impacts of formerly rural areas experiencing increased settlement density. At the same time, rural property owners desire maximum flexibility of land use alternatives. An Agriculture and Timber Land Development Mitigation Strategy should be created to identify rural areas historically utilized for agriculture and timber and set forth unique goals and policies to mitigate the specific impacts of additional settlement in these areas.

#### **Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.**

The Flathead County Solid Waste District is responsible for solid waste facilities and services in Flathead County. The Flathead County Solid Waste District should create a strategic plan to guide the management of future services and facilities. The Flathead County Growth Policy outlines many objectives to be accomplished in a Solid Waste Strategic Plan and could be used as a guide during the creation of that document.

#### **Building Department Feasibility Analysis**

Rapid growth and construction in Flathead County has created challenges for ensuring the safety of residential structures in rural areas. Although many builders voluntarily meet building codes established by national organizations, residential structures in Flathead County are not inspected beyond plumbing and electrical systems for compliance with other minimum health and safety standards. A feasibility analysis could be completed to compare and contrast the overall cost of requiring compliance with some minimum building standards and the associated benefits to public health, safety and general welfare.

## Overall Development Plans

Montana law differentiates between public health, safety and general welfare impacts of minor subdivisions (5 lots or less) and major subdivisions (6 lots or more). However, no additional distinction is made for the regional impacts of large development projects with multiple phases extending over long periods of time. Flathead County is increasingly accepting applications for development projects that involve hundreds of lots/units or more, with multiple phases and proposed uses in unzoned areas. The impacts of these large developments are minimally reviewed for their regional planning significance, only for their compliance with the subdivision regulations.

Overall Development Plans (ODP) are a mutually beneficial way for both the community and the developer to address the impacts of large developments in areas with no regulatory land use designations or accompanying performance standards. ODPs combine the regional planning elements of a neighborhood plan with the predictability and flexibility of a Planned Unit Development (PUD). Developers and large property owners seeking a predictable entitlement process begin by first addressing large-scale planning issues such as arterial and collector roads, emergency service facilities, future land use designations, environmental constraints and compliance with the Neighborhood Plan (if applicable) and Growth Policy. Developers and landowners also have the option of securing additional marketability of a product by including details not normally found in subdivision regulations such as overall character of the development, building design elements, unique lighting standards, etc. The ODP also includes a proposal for detailed land use zoning throughout the project to secure a regulatory entitlement of future land uses, development standards and build-out densities. Once a plan is developed, future subdivision applications within the plan provide technical details such as lot layouts, local road layout and building sites.

Detailed standards for Overall Development Plan applications should be appended to the Flathead County Growth Policy. ODPs shall only be utilized in areas of Flathead County that do not have regulatory land use designations. Standards for ODPs shall, at a minimum, contain the elements required under 76-1-601 M.C.A. and be sufficient to allow waiving of impact criteria during subdivision review (76-3-608(6) M.C.A.).

## PART 4: Implementation Schedule

The Flathead County Growth Policy calls for a number of specific master or management plans to be written. It is not possible to assess the importance of these plans by simple numerical prioritization alone. They involve issues that are of vital importance to the future of Flathead County. The Flathead County Commissioners and the Planning Board held a joint workshop on October 3, 2007 to discuss the relative importance of these plans. It was determined that they all will provide needed guidance in areas of critical importance. The Commissioners fully understand that importance and are committed to assuring their creation in the shortest timeframe possible, assuming adequate funding is available. The prospect of assigning responsibility for drafting the plans to existing or newly created county boards and committees will be given strong consideration.

All plans created will follow the public process outlined in Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Flathead County Growth Policy. Planning staff would be assigned to the various bodies for the purpose of aiding and monitoring progress. All the plans will eventually be brought to the Planning Board for public hearings and possible revisions before being forwarded on to the Commissioners with a recommendation for amending to the Growth Policy. The goal is to have all plans completed within 24 months. The plans are listed below, in order of priority to implement as set by the Commissioners and Planning Board at the October 03, 2007 workshop.

<b>Non-Regulatory Implementation Method</b>	<b>Completion Goal</b>
Overall Development Plans	24 months
Transportation Plan	24 months
Water Quality/Flathead Basin Management Plan	24 months
Mineral Resource Extraction Plan	24 months
Affordable Housing Plan	24 months
Agriculture and Timber Land Committee and Development Mitigation Strategy.	24 months
Wastewater Management Plan	24 months
Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	24 months
Neighborhood Plans	As needed.
Growth Policy Text Amendments	As needed.
Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan.	As needed.

Distribution of educational materials	As needed.
Flathead County Natural Resource Use Policy	Completed, update as needed.
Emergency Service Plan(s)	As needed.
Economic Development Authority	As needed.
Capital Improvements Plan	Completed, update as needed.
Building Department Feasibility Analysis	As needed.

<b>Regulatory Implementation Method</b>	<b>Completion Goal</b>
Official Map.	24 months
Development Predictability Map.	24 months
Land Use Zoning (where health, safety, efficiency and general welfare impacts of increased development make it appropriate).	24 months
Impact Fees	24 months
Statements of Coordination/Interlocal Agreements	24 months
Subdivision Regulations	Completed, update as needed.
Floodplain Regulations	Completed, update as needed.
Road Design Manual	Completed, update as needed.